

# ROSEBUD TO CONGRESS

His First Annual Message to the Senate and House of Representatives.

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

The Late President McKinley and Advocates Stem Measures—Architects—Proposes Trust Legislation Along the Lines of Public—Favors Government Construction of Irrigation Works—Urges Construction of Isthmian Canal and Laying of Pacific Cable—Asks Legislation for the Colonies and Reciprocity for Cuba—Would Exclude Chinese.

As a comprehensive summary of President McKinley's message to Congress, it begins with an official announcement of the death of the late President. The message is a tribute to his life and work, and a statement of his policies. It is a message of hope and confidence, and a message of unity. It is a message that will be read and studied by every citizen of this country.

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been made along the lines under which we have been working in the islands to warrant us in passing new legislation, but it is not necessary to repeat the details of the situation. He believes the time has come when the islands should be encouraged by granting franchises for their development, and of this he says:

"Nothing better can be done for the islands than to introduce industrial enterprise. Nothing would benefit them so much as throwing them open to industrial enterprise. The islands are a vast field for the development of industry, and of this he says:

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# MISSISSIPPI MATTERS

NOTES OF PAST AND CURRENT EVENTS.  
By KATE MARKHAM POWER.

As was published in these columns a few weeks ago, the Capital Commission has given the State Historical Society an opportunity to design the decoration for the tympanum of the new Capitol. Dr. Riley, president of the Historical Society, has already received numerous suggestions, some very creditable and a few artistic designs. A Mississippian woman now residing in Paris is at work on a design which she hopes to see adorning the splendid new Capitol of her beloved native State. The idea of having this prominent ornament the work of home artists is excellent, and we hope the result of the contest will be in all respects worthy the faith the commission felt in their own young men and women.

A most unique piece of work (statuary), by the way, adorns and greatly increases the beauty of the State insane hospital of Louisiana. And a story of intense interest and deep pathos attaches to it. When the building was nearing completion the question of a design for the ornamentation of the tympanum arose. The work if properly done would entail considerable expenditure of money and more than that, the authorities knew not where to turn to find the artist who could and would do the work. During a conference over the dilemma a communication was brought to the physician in charge from one of the patients, an Italian, asking that he be allowed to make a design for the entrance. His letter was regarded as the vagary of an insane man and received scant courtesy. One of the physicians, however, had long been interested in this patient's peculiar tastes and in his gentle demeanour, and more to entertain the man than because he hoped for results, gave the artist a workroom and told him to do his best. The poor fellow heeded the kindly admonition is patient to the world—or so much of it as visits the Louisiana insane hospital—for there, in heroic proportions, beautifully executed, is the result of the Italian artist-patient's design. It seems that his artistic talent and skill were left unimpaired in the fearful wreck of his mental powers, and for years he had begged to be given some work, but was always refused. We are glad to add that his absorption in the work he loved made a contented, docile patient of a man who had hitherto given his attendants great care. Whether he is still at the hospital we do not know, but his beautiful work is there and will live long after his poor, clouded brain is made clear and his restless hands find ease in a better land.

Meridian is already preparing to entertain the State Convention of the Sons of Veterans, which assembles there on the 12th of March. The Queen City of the South expects to entertain at least 500 guests, and she will do well. Every citizen of the State should be represented and the State conventions. Only a few years ago and it will lie with the sons and the Daughters of the Confederacy to keep bright and fragrant its hallowed memories. The brave old soldiers are falling fast, "neath the cruel shafts of time than they ever fell in battle, and there are none to hasten to the front and take their place, unless it is our young men and women. And it is our duty and should be our pleasure to do it. The best way to do this is to organize thoroughly and keep the work alive in the hearts of the young people.

The latest authentic news about the M. J. & K. C. R. comes from Col. Merrill, in an interview with the Mobile Register, in which he says that all arrangements have been completed for building a road from near Augusta, in Perry county, to Memphis, by way of Laurel. And the same time, says the Hattiesburg as fast as it can. Certainly it looks that way, when the road's attorney is buying up rights-of-way through Hattiesburg and contractors are advertising for laborers by the hundred to work on the Hattiesburg line. The Progress asserts emphatically that the main line will come by Hattiesburg, and that it will get there ahead of spring. It further states that a branch will doubtless be built to Laurel, and may be continued to Memphis, but it stands to it that Hattiesburg will be on the main line. The rumors about the building of the M. J. & K. C. at least give the people something to talk about. We hope it will not be long before it will give the people along its main line and its branches plenty to do and bring into the country the money with which to do it.

South Mississippi's hardwood timber is coming into prominence, and as a natural consequence is in demand. A New Orleans hardwood dealer last week bought forty carloads of poplar and other hardwoods to be delivered at once. The dealer will be able to get all the stock for the order near Hattiesburg. There are fortunes added to fortunes in Mississippi's hardwood timber, and unless we bestir ourselves men from the Northwest will soon be here to gather in these fortunes.

The fact that there is still a vast deal of cotton in the fields between Jackson and Natchez excites comment among the travelers over that busy line. Last week's issue of the Holly Springs South says: "Some of these fields have never been picked over, and in others the second picking would make a heavy crop for the county. It is on land, too, and some of it has been in cultivation for more than a hundred years." This speaks well for the "hill section" of South Mississippi, but we can't say an such for that of North Mississippi.

The Meridian Camp, Sons of Veterans, is preparing a memorial to present to Gov. Longino asking that he recommend in his next message to the Legislature that an appropriation be made for building a Confederate home. The committee is made up of Messrs. E. D. Williams, R. E. Williams and Frank Hicks. The Sons are in this work, adding their efforts to those of the daughters, and together they should succeed. The only thing to which we object, in the establishment of a Confederate home, is that it was not done twenty-five years ago.